AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a device associated with an apparatus to report a state of the apparatus to a remote computer, the device having a local network address that is unknown to the remote computer ~~lacking a public network address that can be used by the remote computer to initiate communication with the device~~, the method comprising:

detecting the state of the apparatus, wherein detecting is performed by monitoring variables associated with the apparatus, wherein monitoring comprises (a) obtaining identifiers for variables associated with the apparatus, the identifiers corresponding to storage locations for the apparatus, and (b) reading the variables from the storage locations;

generating a message that reports the state of the apparatus to the remote computer, the message comprising a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) command, the message using eXtensible Markup Language (XML) to report the state, and the message containing a code ~~an identifier~~ that is unique to the device or apparatus, wherein generating is performed periodically or in response to a deviation in the state, and wherein generating comprises obtaining XML tags using the identifiers and incorporating the variables into fields delimited by XML tags that correspond to the variables; and

sending the message comprising the HTTP command to the remote computer, the message comprising a one-way communication to the remote computer, wherein sending

comprises sending the message once the message is generated or queuing the message and sending the message at a later time.

2 to 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the state comprises ~~retrieving~~ reading the variables periodically from the storage locations ~~apparatus~~.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the deviation in the state.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein determining comprises comparing the state to a previous state of the apparatus.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~message is generated using~~ XML tags are part of a predefined template, the message being generated by:

~~obtaining one or more variables relating to the apparatus; and~~

inserting the one or more variables into the template.

13 to 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) One or more machine-readable media comprising instructions for execution by a device associated with an apparatus to report a state of the apparatus to a remote computer, the device having a local network address that is unknown to the remote computer ~~lacking a public network address that can be used by the remote computer to initiate communication with the device~~, the instructions for causing the device to:

detect the state of the apparatus, wherein detecting is performed by monitoring variables associated with the apparatus, wherein monitoring comprises (a) obtaining identifiers for variables associated with the apparatus, the identifiers corresponding to storage locations for the apparatus, and (b) reading the variables from the storage locations;

generate a message that reports the state of the apparatus to the remote computer, the message comprising a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) command, the message using eXtensible Markup Language (XML) to report the state, the message containing ~~an identifier~~ a code that is unique to the device or apparatus, wherein generating is performed periodically or in response to a deviation in the state, and wherein generating comprises obtaining XML tags using the identifiers and incorporating the variables into fields delimited by XML tags that correspond to the variables; and

send the message comprising the HTTP command to the remote computer, the message comprising a one-way communication to the remote computer, wherein sending comprises

sending the message once the message is generated or queuing the message and sending the message at a later time.

23 to 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22, wherein detecting the state comprises ~~retrieving~~ reading the variables periodically from the storage locations ~~apparatus~~.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22, further comprising instructions that cause the device to:

determine the deviation in the state.

31. (Previously Presented) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 30, wherein determining comprises comparing the state to a previous state of the apparatus.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22, wherein the ~~message is generated using~~ XML tags are part of a predefined template, the message being generated by:

~~obtaining one or more variables relating to the apparatus; and~~

inserting the one or more variables into the template.

34 to 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A device associated with an apparatus for reporting a state of the apparatus to a remote computer, the device having a local network address that is unknown to the remote computer ~~lacking a public network address that can be used by the remote computer to initiate communication with the device~~, the device comprising circuitry configured to:

detect the state of the apparatus, wherein detecting is performed by monitoring variables associated with the apparatus, wherein monitoring comprises (a) obtaining identifiers for variables associated with the apparatus, the identifiers corresponding to storage locations for the apparatus, and (b) reading the variables from the storage locations;

generate a message that reports the state of the apparatus to the remote computer, the message comprising a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) command, the message using eXtensible Markup Language (XML) to report the state, and the message containing a code ~~an identifier~~ that is unique to the device or apparatus, wherein generating is performed periodically or in response to a deviation in the state, and wherein generating comprises obtaining XML tags

using the identifiers and incorporating the variables into fields delimited by XML tags that correspond to the variables; and

send the message comprising the HTTP command to the remote computer, the message comprising a one-way communication to the remote computer, wherein sending comprises sending the message once the message is generated or queuing the message and sending the message at a later time.

44 to 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43, wherein detecting the state comprises ~~retrieving~~ reading the variables periodically from the storage locations ~~apparatus~~.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43, wherein[[:]] the circuitry is configured to determine if the state of the apparatus has changed~~; and~~

~~the message is generated if the state of the apparatus has changed~~.

52. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 51, wherein determining if the state of the apparatus has changed comprises comparing the state to a previous state of the apparatus.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43, wherein the ~~message is generated using~~ XML tags are part of a predefined template, the message being generated by:

~~obtaining one or more variables relating to the apparatus; and~~

inserting the one or more variables into the template.

55 and 56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 43, wherein the circuitry comprises memory which stores executable instructions and a processor which executes the instructions.

58. (Original) The device of claim 43, wherein the circuitry comprises one or more of an application-specific integrated circuit and a programmable gate array.

59 to 67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first device comprising circuitry to generate a message reporting a state of an apparatus, the message comprising a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) command, the message using eXtensible Markup Language (XML) to report the state, and the message containing an identifier that is unique to the apparatus,

the first device having a local network address that is unknown to a second device ~~lacking a public network address that can be used by a second device to initiate communication with the first device~~,

wherein reporting is performed following monitoring of variables associated with the apparatus,

wherein monitoring comprises (a) obtaining identifiers for variables associated with the apparatus, the identifiers corresponding to storage locations for the apparatus, and (b) reading the variables from the storage locations, ~~and~~

wherein generating is performed periodically or in response to a deviation in the state, and wherein generating comprises obtaining XML tags using the identifiers and incorporating the variables into fields delimited by XML tags that correspond to the variables,[[;]] and

the message comprising a one-way communication to the remote computer, the first device sending the message once the message is generated or queuing the message and sending the message at a later time; and

the second device comprising circuitry to receive the message from the first device and to relay content from the message to an external system.

69 and 70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the circuitry in the second device is configured to extract the state of the apparatus from the message.

72. (Original) The system of claim 68, wherein the first device is embedded in the apparatus and the second device comprises a remote computer.

73 to 75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the message includes a history log providing past states of the apparatus.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the device is embedded in the apparatus.

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously Presented) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22, wherein the device is embedded in the apparatus.

80. (Cancelled)

81. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 43, wherein the device is embedded in the apparatus.

82. (Cancelled)

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes past states of the apparatus.

84 to 91. (Cancelled)

92. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~89~~, wherein the HTTP command comprises a POST command.

93. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~89~~, wherein the message comprises one or more of the following: data identifying a type of the device, a common name for the device, a manufacturer of the device, a model name of the device, a model number of the device, a serial number of the device, and a universal unique identifier for the device.

94. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~89~~, wherein the state comprises both an error condition and a measurement associated with the apparatus that is not an error condition.

95. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~90~~, wherein the storage locations comprise register locations corresponding to hardware associated with the apparatus.

96 to 99. (Cancelled)

100. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22 ~~97~~, wherein the HTTP command comprises a POST command.

101. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22 ~~97~~, wherein the message comprises one or more of the following: data identifying a type of the device, a common name for the device, a manufacturer of the device, a model name of the device, a model number of the device, a serial number of the device, and a universal unique identifier for the device.

102. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22 ~~97~~, wherein the state comprises both an error condition and a measurement associated with the apparatus that is not an error condition.

103. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 22 ~~98~~, wherein the storage locations comprise register locations corresponding to hardware associated with the apparatus.

104 to 108. (Cancelled)

108. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43 ~~105~~, wherein the HTTP command comprises a POST command.

109. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43 ~~105~~, wherein the message comprises one or more of the following: data identifying a type of the device, a common name for the device, a manufacturer of the device, a model name of the device, a model number of the device, a serial number of the device, and a universal unique identifier for the device.

110. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43 ~~105~~, wherein the state comprises both an error condition and a measurement associated with the apparatus that is not an error condition.

111. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43 ~~106~~, wherein the storage locations comprise register locations corresponding to hardware associated with the apparatus.

112 to 114. (Cancelled)